

HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA  
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

Compiled and edited by

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	280 Sinhalese	280 Sinhalese	280 Sinhalese
280	01 p <sup>01</sup> *[phi] [p-unreleased] <sup>60</sup>	20 d/j-fricative-long <sup>02 07</sup>	
280	02 p-long <sup>02</sup>	21 phi <sup>08 30 61</sup> (loan,allo) */p/	51 iota <sup>16</sup>
280	03 b <sup>03</sup> [beta] <sup>61</sup>	22 s <sup>10</sup>	52 i-long
280	04 b-long <sup>02</sup>	23 s-hacek <sup>11 31</sup> (loan)	53 e-mid
280	05 t <sup>01 04</sup> [t-unreleased] <sup>60</sup> [theta] <sup>61</sup>	24 m <sup>12</sup> [v-nasalized] <sup>61</sup>	54 e-long
280	06 t-long <sup>02</sup>	25 m-long <sup>02</sup>	55 a-front <sup>16</sup>
280	07 d <sup>03 04</sup> [eth] <sup>61</sup>	26 n <sup>12 32</sup> *[eng] [n-dental] <sup>62</sup> [n-retroflex] <sup>63</sup>	56 ash-long
280	08 d-long <sup>02</sup>	27 n-long <sup>02</sup>	57 schwa <sup>37</sup> (restricted)
280	09 t-retroflex <sup>01 05</sup> [t-retroflex-unreleased] <sup>60</sup>	28 n-palatal <sup>33</sup> (loan)	58 schwa-long <sup>38</sup> (loan)
280	10 t-retroflex-long <sup>02</sup>	29 eng <sup>06 64</sup> (restricted,allo,neutral) */n/	59 a
280	11 d-retroflex <sup>03 05</sup>	30 l [l-dental] <sup>62</sup> [l-retroflex] <sup>63</sup>	60 a-long
280	12 d-retroflex-long <sup>02</sup>	31 l-long <sup>02</sup>	61 upsilon <sup>17 18</sup>
280	13 k <sup>01 06</sup> [k-unreleased] <sup>60</sup> [x] <sup>61</sup>	32 r-flap <sup>13 34</sup> [r-approximant-voiceless] <sup>14 65</sup>	62 u-long <sup>17 18</sup>
280	14 k-long <sup>02</sup>	33 h-voice <sup>15</sup>	63 o-mid <sup>18</sup>
280	15 g <sup>03 06</sup> [gamma] <sup>61</sup>	34 s-long <sup>02</sup>	64 o-long <sup>18</sup>
280	16 g-long <sup>02</sup>	35 n-palatal-long <sup>02 36</sup> (loan,limited)	65 yod <sup>39</sup>
280	17 t/c-fricative <sup>07</sup>		66 v-approximant <sup>20 40 61</sup> [beta-approximant] <sup>66</sup> (free)
280	18 t/c-fricative-long <sup>02 07</sup>		67 ash-long-nasalized (limited)
280	19 d/j-fricative <sup>07</sup>		68 a-long-nasalized (limited)
280	\$a Sinhalese \$d Indic \$e Ceylon \$f 8 million \$g Merritt Ruhlen\$g Gary Holland (review) \$h John Crothers (editor)		
280	\$a Coates, W. A. and M.W.S. de Silva \$b 1960 \$c The Segmental Phonemes of Sinhalese \$d University of Ceylon Review 18.163-175		
280	\$a NASALIZED VOWELS \$A "Sinhalese has no nasal vowel phonemes. Two nasal vowels occur, [a-long-nasalized] and [ash-long-nasalized]; the nasalization is light, rather less than that of the nasal vowel phonemes of French, Portuguese, or Hindi. The two occur in only three expressions: [h-voice.a-long-nasalized] 'ok,' [a-long-nasalized] 'oh,' and [ash-long-nasalized] 'huh'.... Nasalized vowels may occur when a nasal consonant has been elided by weakened articulation, ...but this is a matter of allophonic variation." (p.173)		
280	\$a STRESS \$A "Stress in Sinhalese, though not automatic, does not...appear to be phonemic in single words." (p.174)		
280	\$a SYLLABLE \$A (C)V(:)(C) \$A "Most of the words in which clusters occur are not native Sinhalese words; Sinhalese has a marked preference for simple alternations of the CVCV type." (p.170) The medial C may be long, the long C being in many cases a reflex of an earlier consonant cluster.		

- 280 01 \$A "Voiceless stops may be slightly aspirated initially, but much less so than in English; in other positions they are unaspirated." (p.164)
- 280 02 \$A "Long consonants occur in Sinhalese, but only in medial position.... While they are phonetically long, they may be considered as doubled from a phonemic point of view." (p.168)
- 280 03 \$A "Voiced stops are fully voiced in all positions." (p.164)
- 280 04 \$A /t, d/ are "articulated by the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth." (p.165)
- 280 05 \$A "The retroflex stops...are articulated by curling the tip of the tongue back to make contact with the hard palate just back of the tooth-ridge." (p.165)
- 280 06 \$A /k, g, eng/ are "articulated by the back of the tongue against the soft palate." (p.166)
- 280 07 \$A "The palatal affricates /t/c-fricative, d/j-fricative/ are palatal stops released as palatal spirants. For the stop portion the front of the tongue makes contact with the hard palate; the spirant portion is pronounced like /s-hacek/ or its voiced counterpart respectively." (p.166)
- 280 08 \$A "Since the sound [/phi/] was introduced from English [f], it is odd that it should have this bilabial pronunciation." (p.165)
- 280 10 \$A /s/ is "a voiceless groove sibilant, articulated with the tip of the tongue approaching the tooth ridge." (p.165)
- 280 11 \$A /s-hacek/ is "pronounced with the blade of the tongue." (p.166)
- 280 12 \$A "The length of the nasal in a cluster of single nasal plus voiced stop varies from normal to very short." (p.169)
- 280 13 \$A "/r-flap/ is a voiced flap or trill consisting of one or two taps with the tip of the tongue against the tooth-ridge." (p.165)
- 280 14 \$A [r-approximant-voiceless]: "The tip of the tongue is raised towards the tooth-ridge or even a point slightly further forward, while the front of the tongue is depressed. In sound it somewhat resembles the voiceless portion of the /r/ in the usual American pronunciation of 'tree.'" (p.165)
- 280 15 \$A /h-voice/ "usually has partial voicing." (p.168)
- 280 16 \$A /iota, a-front/ are "somewhat retracted." (p.172)
- 280 17 \$A /upsilon/ and /u-long/ are somewhat advanced. (p.172)
- 280 18 \$A For the back vowels "the lips are very little if at all protruded." (p.172)
- 280 20 \$A "Iv-approximant] may be either bilabial, like /upsilon/, or labiodental, but the tongue-position is always mid central, not high back as for /upsilon/." (p.174)
- 280 30 \$A /phi/ "occurs only in borrowed words, and many speakers regularly substitute /p/ for it." (p.164)
- 280 31 \$A /s-hacek/ "occurs almost exclusively in loan-words from Sanskrit and English, and, particularly in the former, many speakers regularly substitute /s/ for it; but, probably owing to the influence of English, the use of /s-hacek/ seems to be gaining." (p.166)
- 280 32 \$A /n/ does not occur word finally. (p.168)
- 280 33 \$A Short /n-palatal/ occurs only in borrowed words. (p.166)
- 280 34 \$A /r-flap/ occurs finally only in borrowed words. (p.165)
- 280 36 \$A /n-palatal-long/ only occurs between vowels and only in loans or in future verbal forms. In the latter case it may be replaced by /n-long/, the palatal "usually occurring in more popular speech." (p.166)
- 280 37 \$A /schwa/ contrasts with /a/ only in initial syllables, where /schwa/ is infrequent, and word finally, due to the shortening of word final /a-long/. Otherwise /schwa/ occurs only before single consonants (but not adjacent to /h-voice/), and /a/ occurs elsewhere. (p.172f)
- 280 38 \$A "/schwa/ occurs long only in words borrowed from English." (p.171)
- 280 39 \$A /yod/ occurs only initially and medially, but never next to /iota/. (p.174)
- 280 40 \$A /v-approximant/ occurs initially and medially, but not finally (p.165); "never occurs next to /upsilon/ or /o-mid/." (p.174)

- 280 60    \$A "Finally the voiceless stops are usually unexploded." (p.164)
- 280 61    \$A "Sinhalese has a strong tendency towards weakened articulation of single consonants between vowels. This applies to the nasals, to all stops except retroflex, and to /v-approximant/. The stops may be so weakly articulated as to emerge as the homorganic spirants; /m/ becomes [v] with nasalization, while /n/ may remain only as nasalization of the vowels; [v-approximant] is reduced to a slight murmur. The weakening tendency is especially strong when the consonant occurs before a stressed vowel, in which case it may disappear completely." (p.168)
- 280 62    \$A /n, l/ are dental before dental stops. (p.165)
- 280 63    \$A /n, l/ are retroflexed before retroflex stops. (p.165)
- 280 64    \$A /eng/ only occurs finally, before velar stops, and before consonants other than stops. Generally no other nasal occurs finally, certainly not /n/ or /n-palatal/. However, one learned word and some loans have /m/ finally. Also, /n/ and /eng/ contrast before /yod.V/ in learned words. (p.166f)
- 280 65    \$A /r-flap/ is realized as [r-approximant-voiceless] "initially." (p.165)
- 280 66    \$A [beta-approximant] is a free variant of /v-approximant/ in initial position only. (p.165)

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